

for inspiring us every day through their commitment to a better future.

HONORING HEZEKIAH WATKINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a valiant and selfless community servant, Hezekiah Watkins.

In the summer of 1961, Hezekiah Watkins sought out to see the Freedom Riders make history at the Greyhound bus station in Jackson, Mississippi. Though his mother warned him of his potential demise, their home being burned, and other risks of activism; Watkins couldn't be dissuaded from watching the protesters combat segregated public transportation up close and personal.

At age 13, Watkins's life changed forever when he was pushed into the bus station, mistaken for an "outside agitator," and sent to Parchman Farm, the Mississippi State Penitentiary. While incarcerated, Watkins was celled with two inmates convicted of murder, who tormented, molested, and physically abused him. They also stole his food leaving him with only scraps of fat, syrup and a biscuit. He was returned to his mother in Jackson five days later, who anticipated identifying his remains.

Hearing of Watkins' incarceration, James Bevel, a prominent civil rights leader, visited Watkins' home in Jackson. While Watkins still had no intentions of joining the movement, Bevel insisted he was needed. After hearing Bevel deliver a powerful sermon at church, Bevel gained the trust of both Watkins and his mother, who believed Bevel was a God-sent man. She allowed Watkins to join the Freedom Riders under the sole condition that Bevel would keep him safe, which he did.

Watkins participated in the 1964 Mississippi Summer Project, also known as Freedom Summer, where he and other activists worked to increase the black voter turnout in Mississippi. They also instituted Freedom Schools which worked to academically empower black students by offering free summer classes.

Today, Watkins can be found at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson, not as a part of a display, but as an employee, sharing his story to daily visitors.

PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE IN DISPLACED POPULATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2140, the "Preventing Child Marriage Act of 2019."

H.R. 2140 calls for an adoption by the United Nations of a definition of "child marriage" and develop a comprehensive strategy through the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to address child marriage in refugee settlements administered by the United Nations.

Child marriage occurs when a formal marriage or informal union takes place in which at least one person is younger than age 18.

Illegal child marriage arises when a formal marriage or informal union involving at least one person younger than age 18 that is illegal under the laws of the country in which the child marriage occurs.

It is critical that we better understand the presence of child marriages within refugee settlements in order to assess how they intersect with the rates of violence against girls including young children and infants.

This bill calls upon the United Nations to adopt a comprehensive strategy including:

Collecting and reporting data related to the number of known or suspected child marriages taking place inside each such settlement;

Protocols for United Nations personnel regarding prevention and monitoring of child marriages inside each such settlement;

A description of programs administered at such settlements that provide—

(A) physical, mental, and emotional rehabilitation and support to children who have extricated themselves from child marriage; and

(B) alternatives to child marriage, such as education initiatives; and

Protocols regarding how United Nations personnel should—

(A) report adults participating in illegal child marriages in each such settlement;

(B) monitor the prosecution of such adults by the authorities of the country in which the 2 settlement at issue is located.

When enacted, H.R. 2140 will develop a framework in gaining data on child marriages globally as well as create effective strategies to combat them in refugee settlements.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2140 to confront child marriages which pose a strong threat to young children especially girls living within these settlements.

TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE REYNOLDS, RETIRING SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNCIL AT CONSUMERS ENERGY

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Catherine Reynolds for her superior leadership and service to the people of Michigan during a trailblazing 40-year career at CMS Energy Corporation and Consumers Energy Company.

Cathy, who will retire this month, joined the company in 1979 during an era of unique challenges for women in the corporate world. She started as a proofreader in the "steno pool" where all the typing in the company was conducted.

In 1983, she earned her law degree at Thomas M. Cooley Law School and transferred to the company's legal department. There, she worked in a variety of areas, including 10 years in litigation before focusing on marketing, electronic commerce and corporate issues.

Cathy was appointed assistant general counsel over the general practice group of the

legal department in 2004 and handled issues including contracts, property, environmental, marketing, human resources, labor, benefits, property tax and insurance matters.

In 2006, she became the company's first female corporate secretary. And in 2013, Cathy was named the company's first female senior vice president—serving as Senior Vice President and General Counsel.

She served as a director on the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Jackson County, Michigan and American Bar associations.

Cathy has handled each of her roles with professionalism, integrity and grace. She set an extraordinary example at the company, serving as a calm, insightful influence on the many co-workers she mentored throughout her career.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I send my congratulations on Cathy's well-deserved retirement and many thanks for 40 years of inspiring and empowering generations of women to excel.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 VOLUNTEER RESTON AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a group of individuals who have selflessly dedicated themselves to the betterment of their community. Each year, the Reston Association recognizes individuals who have gone above and beyond with the Volunteer Reston awards. Reston is well known to be a shining example of civic engagement and this event, held during National Volunteer Week, honors those who have made significant impacts on the lives of others and the community. In Fairfax County, we are blessed with an incredible abundance of generosity of spirit and the individuals who are being honored with these awards are the embodiment of that spirit.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of 2019 Volunteer Reston award winners:

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Doug Britt
Cindy Metcalf

55+ VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Don Coram

COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Family PASS/Mary O'Reilly

GROUP VOLUNTEER SERVICE OF THE YEAR

Andrew Sigle
Janet Bradshaw
Gerald Padmore
Darlena Ricks
Carol Anne Bradley
Sandra Deleon
Syazana Durrani
Emily Huaroco
Kathleen Jones
Luis Ortiz Lopez
Maryam Ovissi
Alexandra Rossi

WORK GROUP VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Belinda Collins
Pat & Paul Dunham